

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 - 28 are pending in the present application.

Drawings:

The drawings stand objected to as failing to show every feature specified in the claims. More specifically, the Office Action states that the feature recited in claim 8 must be shown, or the feature canceled from the claims.

Applicants contend that the feature of claim 8, referred to in the statement of rejection, is illustrated in Fig. 5 of the originally filed application. As described in the originally filed application at page 10, paragraph 41, hoop members 33, 37 disposed at each end of stent 30 may have the apex sections that point outwardly from the stent disposed in common planes perpendicular to the axis of stent 30, *such as apex sections 35' of hoop 34 along plane I*, as shown in Fig. 5. Thus, Applicants contend that the drawings, as originally filed, do illustrate the claim feature referred to in the Office Action and this application is therefore in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

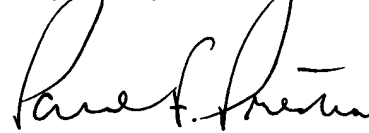
Double Patenting:

Claims 1 - 28 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 16, 20, 32, 34 - 37, and 48 - 55 of U.S. Patent No. 6,730,117 to Tseng et al. To obviate this rejection, enclosed herewith is a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c).

Conclusion:

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Prestia, Reg. No. 23,031
Ellen E. Fielitz, Reg. No. 54,746
Attorneys for Applicants

PFP/EEF/dhm

Encl.: Terminal Disclaimer

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☒ P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

☐ P.O. Box 1596
Wilmington, DE 19899
(302) 778-2500

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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